

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-31 are now present in the application. Amendments have been made to the specification. Claims 1, 4, 6-10, 13, 16, 17 and 19 have been amended. Claims 21-29 are new. Claims 1, 13 and 21 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 7, 2002, and for providing Applicant with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature specified in the claims. Thus, the Examiner identified certain features that must be shown or canceled from the claims.

In response, Applicant has filed a new proposed drawing sheet in which Fig. 2 has been added. In Fig. 2, the switching device 220, capacitor bank 230 and resistor/resistor bank 210 are illustrated as labeled rectangular boxes. Corrected Figs. 1 and 3 each illustrate the switching device 120 as a labeled rectangular box. Fig. 3 also illustrates the rectifier 360 as a labeled rectangular box.

Applicant respectfully submits that the changes to Figs. 1 and 3 do not introduce new matter. Rather, they illustrate that the switching device can be generalized to include devices other than the bipolar junction transistor (BJT) previously illustrated. Paragraph 0015 (Page 5) in the originally-filed specification clearly indicates that the switching device may comprise any appropriate switching device, such as a BJT, Field Effect Transistor (FET), Metal Oxide Semiconductor FET (MOSFET), Silicon Controlled Rectifier (SCR), diode, or hybrid device. Thus, the originally filed specification provides support for these drawing changes.

Applicant further submits that new Fig. 2 does not introduce any new matter. Fig. 2 generalizes the switching device 220 such that it may include other types of devices than a BJT. As discussed above, the originally filed specification clearly provides support for such a generalization. Fig. 2 also generalizes the capacitor 230 so that it may be in the form of a capacitor bank. Fig. 2 further generalizes the resistor 210 so that it may include a bank of resistors. Paragraph 0016 (Page 6) of the originally filed specification provides clear support for these generalizations.

Applicant respectfully points out that according to 37 CFR §1.83(a), “conventional features disclosed in the description and the claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box).” Applicant respectfully submits that claimed features identified by the Examiner are conventional circuit elements whose operation and implementation would be readily understood by those of ordinary skill in the art. Thus, Applicant submits that a detailed

illustration of these features is not essential for an understanding of the invention, and the labeled rectangular boxes illustrating these features satisfy the requirements of 1.83(a).

In view of the corrected drawings and the above remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this drawings objection.

Specification

The specification has been amended to accommodate the proposed corrections to Figs. 1 and 3, and the addition of proposed Fig. 2 to the drawings. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is entered. Entry of the above amendments to the specification is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding to the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended. In particular, independent claim 1 now recites a resistor and capacitor connected in series between the first and second buses of a DC link. This feature is not disclosed or suggested by AAPA. Instead, as clearly shown in Fig. 1 of AAPA, only a capacitor is connected between the first and

second buses of a DC link. Thus, Applicant respectfully independent claim 1 is distinguished over AAPA, and now in condition for allowance.

As amended, independent claim 13 now recites a switching device that, when activated, is configured to short circuit a resistor and conduct the current flowing through a capacitor connected in series with the resistor. This feature is not taught or suggested by AAPA.

Fig. 1 shows that the switching device 120 of AAPA is not configured to receive the current flowing through the capacitor 130; instead, the switching device receives the current flowing from the front-end rectifier 160. Further, AAPA discloses that the switching device 120 of Fig. 1 conducts the full system current after being activated, while the average current draw (i.e., DC current) of the capacitor 130 becomes essentially zero (see paragraphs 0005 of page 2). Thus, AAPA fails to disclose that the switching device conducts a current flowing through the capacitor after the switching device is activated, as required by independent claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 13 is not anticipated by AAPA and now is in condition for allowance.

With regard to dependent claims 2-12 and 14-20, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies on allowable independent claims 1 and 13.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 1-20 clearly define over the present invention over the reference relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC

§ 102(b) is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New independent claim 21 now recites that the switching device is configured not to carry the full current load of the DC link after activation. As disclosed in AAPA (paragraphs 0004-0005 of pages 1-2), the switching device 120 must accommodate the full current supplied over the DC link to a system load (e.g., back-end inverter). Applicant respectfully submits that support for this feature can be found in page 9, paragraph 0025, of the specification. Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 22-28 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on new claim 21. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 30 and 31 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claim 13.

Conclusion

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all presently pending rejections, and issue a Notice of Allowance in connection with the pending claims.

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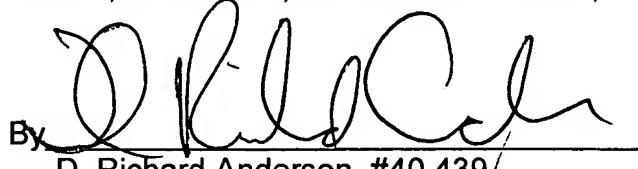
It is believed that that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at (703) 208-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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DRA/JWR/mlr
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Attachment(s): Three (3) sheets of proposed drawing corrections